

Starbeck in Bloom Portfolio update for judges for 17 July 2018

We look forward to welcoming you both to Starbeck for the summer judging. In the summer we meet at Harrogate Golf club which is situated at the top of Knaresborough Hill, directly on A59 just a mile outside Knaresborough (Postcode HG2 7TE). We have reserved a parking place for each of you until after your judging of Starbeck.

We hope to start at 8.30 am and will visit different areas to those you visited during Spring judging. We will go to the allotments, to the railway station and Spa Mews, our conservation area. We will revisit the library projects and see Addymans Wood on Belmont Field. We will finish at St Andrews church for coffee and cake and then return you to your cars ready to judge Knaresborough.

Projects since Spring

Addymans Wood is an ongoing project. In 2018 we have planted more wild flower seeds and cowslips and in spring were delighted to see some Snake's head fritillaries appear that were planted a few years ago! There is an insect hotel built by the Badgers and the path has been re-chipped after the very wet weather earlier this year using chippings given by Harrogate Borough Council and enthusiastically spread by the youngsters from the St John Badgers. We hope to visit this area on July 17th. Using a grant from our local North Yorkshire councillor we commissioned a Hedgehog information board following on from our autumn project of Hedgehog conservation, we have bird and bat houses and even a stag beetle hole.



Planting - throughout Starbeck we have many different planting schemes all adapted to the individual sites and suitable for different conditions. ie watering requirements, maintenance and position.

The High Street planters are mainly planted with annual bedding, they are planted twice a year to give good colour and form a focal point on the main road. There are 20 hanging baskets, 12 half baskets and 9 barrier baskets that are made by Harrogate Borough Council but funded by SIB with a sponsorship scheme. The colour scheme is planned by SIB who water and maintain, high baskets are watered by HBC due to difficult access on main A59. This year's theme is pink, white and blue using geraniums, begonias, cosmos and verbena. The Cenotaph has 4 barriers and 2 corner planters. The theme there is Suffragettes with purple, white and lime green, this colour theme continues at the boundary wheels.

Boundary wheels are more difficult to water so we use more geraniums as they are more drought tolerant. They also are planted twice a year. The 'Swimmer' feature bed at the swimming pool is planted to match this design, it is privately funded and watered by bowling club staff.

Two **nectar beds** are planted with plants chosen to attract bees and insects and are planted for sustainability. The plants provide interest all year round along with two large insect houses. This year it was decided to replant one side with the second side to be completed next spring. A new design has been planned with the emphasis on retaining colour and interest all year round and attracting as many insects as possible.



The **Tour de France legacy bed** in front of library is all yellow but sustainably planted with all-year-round interest. In the centre is Pierre our Frenchman on a Pennyfarthing bike made, designed and given by a local metalworker. The bed has matured and is extremely attractive. The library gardens are also maturing well and infilling all the borders. Every plant in these gardens has been donated. Our composting bins are located here as well as two hedgehog houses.

Gate Post corner has shrubs for interest and is under planted with sedums and geranium roxanne in summer followed by snowdrops and pulmonaria in winter. This is now in its fourth summer and is establishing well.

Raised Heuchera and 'daisy' bed adds variety to High Street planting and are easy maintenance

Spa Mews has a perfumed border of pinks, lavenders and lilies around seating area for elderly residents and is easy maintenance.

'Grow it, Eat it' corner is for public picking. Lots of herbs, an apple tree, and wild strawberries given by Bettys Cookery School are all to be picked and this year the vegetables of beans, courgettes and tomatoes were grown by local Brownies.

Wildlife has a haven at Starbeck in Spa Mews –the entire beck is planted with Yorkshire provenance wild flowers. This area is managed by SIB volunteer and advised by the HBC conservation expert, Sam Walker.



We also have a stone trough at Spa Mews planted as an alpine collection. This trough was donated to SIB. The Hut belongs to our street cleansers Chris and Mike and is planted by them making a corner of colour. It is also one of our garden competition entries.

The railway station is planted and maintained by SIB with previous funding from Northern Rail. The 16 half barrels and 4 large planters are filled twice a year. All barrels are made of sustainable plastic with water reservoirs. The large planters were cleared and replanted in the winter and one is now planted up with herbs- which is convenient for the rail travellers!

The beer barrel at the entrance to the station is planted with bedding. The small gap site at the opposite side of station is mainly trailing plants to cover the unsightly wall where there is very little soil.

The Methodist church garden group provide interest all year with bulbs and blossom trees and are gradually covering screening trellis with clematis. They have now extended down to the bottom of their long carpark. This year they found homes for Polyanths from the High St planters.

Wild flowers are sown along the edge of play area on Belmont field and in Addymans wood. We are building it up using seed, plug plants and bulbs 'in the green'. The wild bluebells at Spa Mews are now multiplying under trees.

An area of waste land has been cleared near the allotments, some nettles have been left and buddleias, honeysuckle and lavenders have been added to make the strip of land attractive to us and the butterflies and bees! Springwater School now have their own allotment and our volunteers give them support by helping to lay paths for their wheelchairs. Henshaws College for the visually impaired have also taken on an allotment.

In the spring we did several litter picks as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean.

We hold an annual Summer Show with 45 classes covering plants, produce, craft skills baking which includes all ages. The Annual garden competition is to be judged on July 25 this year by Nick Smith the Harrogate Flower Show Director. Slides of last year's gardens are on our website and on our presentation video. This is shown not only to the judges but at our annual Award ceremony in September which is open to all. We are joining in a new

Community Day at end of June where we will publicise the Show and Competition

The spring and summer judging routes are different, our aim is to try to show as much as possible in a short time. Starbeck is very spread out but the centre is the High Street which most of the community visit daily .We have weekly work parties from April to October and in that time frame every street in the area is weeded and litter picked .Obviously the main area is where most of the floral displays are concentrated and we also respond to any suggestions for extra attention.

Our funding comes from many private donations, also from Friends of Starbeck in Bloom and we are constantly on the quest of grants. This is not an affluent area of the Harrogate district and our sole aim is to make Starbeck a better place to live and a place to be proud of.

In response to your comments we were delighted to pass them on to both Chris at Cone Exchange and to Taylors and Bettys who did a special edition of their company newsletter. BBC Blue Peter are starting a joint venture with Cone Exchange and we hope to be able to bring you a preview at St Andrews church. We puzzled over the comment about encouraging younger helpers until we realised that you only saw the older ones of our team as younger ones were at work! Don't worry we DO have younger helpers!

We hope to have our brand new website ready to unveil by July. This has been generously made for us by a new company to Starbeck and all for free!

This is our 20th Anniversary year and we are having a Grand Garden Party on July 14 with all our supporters past and present invited to help us celebrate 23 groups including WI, church groups, youth groups, schools are all joining in the fun by making straw people who will sit on benches all around Starbeck. All the plans are secret at the moment but I'm told we will have the Queen, Spice Girls, suffragettes and even our old vicar! Should be fun and everyone wants to take part.

We hope you will enjoy seeing Starbeck in a different season and hopefully to be able to see it without the rain!

